

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A canister for receiving body fluids, comprising:
 - (a) a body having side walls and a bottom and adapted to sealably receive a removable lid;
 - (b) a removable lid for sealably covering said body;
 - (c) an inlet port in said lid for inflow of body fluids into said canister and for inflow of cleaning fluid into said canister;
 - (d) an outlet port in said lid for suctioning said body fluids and said cleaning fluid from said canister;
 - (e) a suction tube in fluid communication with said outlet port and extending to the bottom of said canister;
 - (f) a closure for closing said outlet port during said inflow of body fluids into said canister; and
 - (g) a vacuum port in said lid for application of vacuum to said canister for inducing said inflow of body fluids into said canister.
 2. A canister according to claim 1 further including a check valve on said lid operably coupled to said vacuum port for stopping said application of vacuum to said canister when said body fluids in said canister reach a pre-determined level.
 3. A canister according to claim 1 further comprising a body fluid inflow tube adapted for connection to said inlet port, comprising a tube having a section for attachment to a body fluid inlet tube

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and a section extending through said inlet port and into said canister.

4. A canister according to claim 1 wherein said suction tube is removable from said lid.

5. A canister according to claim 1 wherein said outlet port is sealed by a puncturable membrane.

6. A canister according to claim 2 wherein said check valve comprises a floatball operably coupled to a needle valve.

7. A system for collecting and disposing of body fluids, comprising:

(a) a canister for receiving said body fluids, comprising:

(i) a body having side walls and a bottom and adapted to sealably receive a removable lid;

(ii) a removable lid for sealably covering said body;

(iii) an inlet port in said lid for inflow of body fluids into said canister and for inflow of cleaning fluid into said canister;

(iv) an outlet port in said lid for suctioning said body fluids and said cleaning fluid from said canister;

(v) a suction tube in fluid communication with said outlet port and extending to the bottom of said canister;

(vi) a closure for closing said outlet port during said inflow of body fluids into said canister;

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(vii) a vacuum port in said lid for application of vacuum to said canister for inducing said inflow of body fluids into said canister;

(viii) a check valve on said lid operably coupled to said vacuum port for stopping said application of vacuum to said canister when said body fluids in said canister reach a pre-determined level;

(b) a servicing unit for removing said body fluids from said canister and cleaning said canister, comprising:

(i) an outlet conduit to conduct fluid from said canister;

(ii) an inlet conduit for conducting cleaning fluid from a source of said cleaning fluid to said canister;

(iii) a connector for detachably connecting said outlet conduit to said outlet port in said lid and for detachably connecting said inlet conduit to said inlet port in said lid;

(iv) a vacuum conduit operatively connecting a vacuum source to said outlet conduit for inducing a flow of fluid from said canister through said outlet conduit; and

(v) means to induce a flow of cleaning fluid to said canister through said inlet conduit.

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A system according to claim 7 further comprising:

(a) a decontamination chamber in fluid communication with said outlet conduit, in which body fluid from said canister is brought into contact with a disinfecting fluid;

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(12) A system according to claim 11 wherein said canister lifter comprises a canister compartment to hold said canister and a vertical lift mechanism to raise and lower said compartment.

5 (13) A system according to claim 12 wherein said canister compartment can move to a plurality of operative positions to connect canisters of different heights to said inlet and outlet conduits of said servicing unit.

14. A system for collecting and disposing of body fluids, comprising:
a canister for receiving said body fluids comprising:
a body having side walls and a bottom and adapted to receive a lid;
15 (a) lid for covering said body;
a first inlet port in said lid for inflow of body fluids into said canister;
a second inlet port in said lid for inflow of cleaning fluid into said canister;
20 spraying means in fluid communication with said second inlet port for spraying cleaning fluid within said canister;
means for closing said second inlet port during said inflow of body fluids into said canister;
25 an outlet port in said lid for outflow of body fluids and said cleaning fluid from said canister;

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a conduit in fluid communication with said outlet port extending into said canister; and,

means for closing said outlet port during said inflow of body fluids into said canister; and,

an apparatus for removing body fluids from said canister and cleaning said canister, comprising:

first fluid conduit means to conduct fluid in said canister to a drain;

second fluid conduit means to conduct cleaning fluid from a source of cleaning fluid to an inlet port in said canister; and,

a connector head having first and second connector tubes in fluid communication with said first and second fluid conduit means respectively for connection to and disconnection from said outlet port and said inlet port respectively.

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15. A system for collecting and disposing of body fluids comprising:

(a) a canister for receiving said body fluids, comprising:

(i) a body having side walls and a bottom and adapted to sealably receive a removable lid;

(ii) a removable lid for sealably covering said body;

(iii) a first inlet port in said lid for inflow of body fluids into said canister;

(iv) a second inlet port in said lid for inflow of cleaning fluid into said canister;

- (v) means for closing said second inlet port during said inflow of body fluids into said canister;
- (vi) an outlet port in said lid for suctioning body fluids and said cleaning fluid from said canister;
- 5 (vii) a suction tube in fluid communication with said outlet port and extending to said bottom of said canister;
- (viii) means for closing said outlet port during said inflow of body fluids into said canister; and
- 10 (ix) a vacuum port in said lid for application of vacuum to said canister for inducing said inflow of body fluids into said canister; *W*
- (b) a servicing unit for removing said body fluids from said canister and cleaning said canister, comprising:
 - 15 (ii) an outlet conduit to conduct fluid from said canister;
 - (ii) an inlet conduit to conduct cleaning fluid from a source of said cleaning fluid into said canister;
 - (iii) connector means for detachably connecting said outlet conduit to said outlet port and for detachably connecting said inlet conduit to said second inlet port; and
 - 20 (iv) a vacuum conduit operatively connecting a vacuum source to said outlet conduit for inducing a flow of fluid from said canister through said outlet conduit.

16. A system according to claim 15 wherein said canister further
25 includes a check valve on said lid operably coupled to said vacuum port for stopping said application of vacuum to said canister when said body fluids in said canister reach a pre-determined level.

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17. ^{comp} A system according to claim 15 wherein said canister further comprises a sprayer in fluid communication with said second inlet port for spraying said cleaning fluid within said canister.

5 ^{comp} 18. A system according to claim 15 wherein said servicing unit further comprises a sprayhead in fluid communication with said inlet conduit and adapted to be inserted into said canister through said inlet port.

10 (19) A system according to claim 15 further comprising:
(a) a decontamination chamber in fluid communication with said outlet conduit, in which body fluid from said canister is brought into contact with a disinfecting fluid;
(b) a first conduit to conduct fluid from said decontamination chamber to a drain;
15 (c) a second conduit to conduct a disinfecting fluid from a source of said disinfecting fluid into said decontamination chamber, and means for inducing a flow of disinfecting fluid through said second conduit; and
20 (d) a vent for venting said decontamination chamber to atmosphere.

(20) A system according to claim 15 further including a canister lifter for raising and lowering said canister between a first, lower, position and a second, upper position in which said outlet port of said canister is operatively connected to said outlet conduit and said

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inlet port of said canister is operatively connected to said inlet conduit.

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A system according to claim 14 wherein said canister lifter comprises a canister compartment to hold said canister and a vertical lift mechanism to raise and lower said compartment.

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A servicing unit for cleaning a canister of body fluids and disposing of said fluids, said canister having a lid with an outlet port and an inlet port, comprising:

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- (a) an outlet conduit to conduct fluids from said canister;
- (b) an inlet conduit to conduct cleaning fluid from a source of said cleaning fluid to said canister;
- (c) a connector for detachably connecting said outlet conduit to said outlet port in said lid of said canister and for detachably connecting said inlet conduit to said inlet port in said lid of said canister;
- (d) a vacuum conduit operatively connecting a vacuum source to said outlet conduit for inducing a flow of fluid from said canister through said outlet conduit.

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